

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 00402 192314Z

65

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6406

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 0402

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, PN

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION GROUP IN CHIRIQUE

REFS: (A) PANAMA 0303 (B) PANAMA 376

1. REFTELS DESCRIBE EXISTENCE OF POTENTIAL OPPOSITION  
MOVEMENT AMONG RICE PRODUCERS AND OTHERS CENTERED IN  
CHIRIQUE PROVINCE.

2. I WAS CONTACTED OVER WEEKEND BY CONFIDANTE OF GENERAL  
TORRIJOS WHO, ON LATTER'S INSTRUCTIONS, INFORMED ME THAT  
GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO SEND SOME FIVE RINGLEADERS OF THE  
OPPOSITION GROUP INTO EXILE. I WAS ASKED MY REACTION.

3. I SAID I KNEW NOTHING OF THE CONTROVERSY BEYOND FACT  
THAT RUMORS WERE CIRCULATING ABOUT A MEETING IN CHIRIQUE  
FOCUSED, I THOUGHT, ON THE RICE PROBLEM. I KNEW NOTHING  
OF THE GROUP OR ITS LEADERS. MOREOVER, I UNDERLINED THAT  
THIS WAS AN INTERNAL MATTER IN WHICH I WOULD NOT WISH TO  
GET INVOLVED.

4. NONETHELESS, I OFFERED OPINION THAT SENDING PEOPLE  
INTO EXILE WAS HARLY EVIDENCE OF A STRONG AND CONFIDENT  
GOVERNMENT. TORRIJOS HAS OFTEN BEEN CRITICIZED FOR HIS  
QUOTE DICTATORSHIP UNQUOTE AND SENDING ABROAD THOSE WHO  
CRITICIZED HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD CLEARLY BE USED BY HIS  
CRITICS HERE AND ELSEWHERE AS ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF  
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TOTALITARIAN TENDENCIES. SUCH CRITICISM WOULD DOUBTLESS

BE ALL THE LOUDER IN WAKE OF HIS VISIT TO CASTROLAND.  
I NOTED THAT REPORTED MEETING IN CHIRIQUI AND ANY STATE-  
MENTS MADE THERE HAD CERTAINLY RECEIVED NO ATTENTION IN  
LOCAL PRESS. WAS THE DANGER REALLY SO GREAT AS TO REQUIRE  
SUCH STRONG REACTION QUERY. I THOUGH GENERAL WOULD BE  
WISE TO THINK HARD ON THE PLUSSES AND MINUSES OF PROPOSED  
ACTION. I FELT CERTAIN REACTION IN MY COUNTRY WOULD BE  
NEGATIVE. INTERMEDIARY SAID HE WOULD CONVEY MY THOUGHTS  
TO TORRIJOS.  
JORDEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RICE, FARM BLOCS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** blochd0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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